Sir, a Nagpur agreement was made to honour the sentiments of the people of Vidarbha and Nagpur. Even after 35-36 years of formation of Maharashtra the problems being faced by the people of Vidarbha and the questions in regard to the development are still same as they were earlier...*(Interruptions)* But, we have not been able to express our views before the people properly ...*(Interruptions)* You can make your point ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DATTA MEGHE (RAMTEK) : Please listen to me ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL : The dream of united Maharashtra ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (RATNAGIRI) : There have been several Chief Ministers from Vidarbha ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL : The dream of united Maharashtra ...*(Interruptions)* your continuous interruptions cannot stop me from saying my point ...*(Interruptions)* The dream of united Maharashtra ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Please listen to what I am saying ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned till 2 P.M.

**13.00 hrs**

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock*

**14.10 hrs.**

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Ten Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock*

(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

**(i) Need to Protect the Interests of Small Scale Bidi Producers in the Country**

*[Translation]*

SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE (JABALPUR) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the process of opening the doors of those industries reserved so far for unorganised sector to the foreign companies in the name of new Economic Policy, these companies have been allowed to manufacture small cigerettes. Due to tax exemption and other rebates these small cigarettes are available at cheaper rates and are adversely affecting the sale of Bidi. The number of small cigarettes manufactured in the country in 1994 was 7 crores which increased to more than 70 crores in 1995. Manufacturing of these cigarettes by modern automatic machines by big companies has posed a serious threat to the Bidi industry and the workers engaged in it. Manufacturers, manufacturing Bidis upto the number of 20 lakh were exempted from tax and other duties in the name of small scale industry. The purpose of giving this exemption might have been to give relief to small manufacturers but only big manufacturers availed of this benefit. These big producers began tax evasion in the name of being small scale producers as a result, on one hand, Government revenue decreased and on the other hand, exploitation of labourers in this sector got intensified. Besides, these direct effect of the new Economic Policy, labourers engaged in Bidi industry have also been facing other repercussions like increase in prices of commodities, un-employment, their standard of living has gone down and social security weakened. Therefore, my submission to the Government is that adequate steps may be taken to resolve the problems of the labourers engaged in Bidi industry and efforts be made to strengthen Bidi industry.

**(ii) Need to Issue Instructions to the Government of Maharashtra for issue of Caste Certifficate for the People belonging to the Halba Tribe**

*[English]*

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT (NAGPUR) : I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the grave injustice on the poor people of Halba Tribe Community in Maharashtra, particularly in Vidarbha region.

In spite of several decisions of the High Court in their favour, still they are being denied the Caste Certificate to avail facilities in education and jobs.

I would also like to say that the Nagpur Bench of High Court clearly gave decision in favour of the Halba Tribes *vide* Writ Petition No. 2984/1984. But the Government of Maharashtra filed a Civil Appeal No. 2294/1986 in Supreme Court on this petition, though Supreme Court admitted this case but refused to grant any sort of stay.

I would also like to emphasise that since there is no stay by Supreme Court by all means the decision of the High Court is binding on everybody including the Government, either it be Central or State. I would like to draw the attention towards a latest decision of Supreme

Court in Gayatri Laxmi Bapurao Nagpure case decided on 15.3.96 by the Bench of Hon'ble Justice Madan Mohan Panchi and K. Venkateswamy. The decision is clear. As per the judgement even on the strength on the Certificate of the first cousin, the Halba petitioner was granted Caste Certificate.

I urge upon the Central Government to intervene in the matter immediately and issue suitable instructions to the State Government in this regard.

**(iii) Need to Include Rosemala in Kollam District, Kerala Under Rural Electrification Scheme**

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (ADOOR) : Rosemala in Kollam District, Kerala is surrounded by thick forest. There are 300 families residing at Rosemala, more than 25 kms. away from the nearest town at Aryankevu. Most of the families belong to Scheduled Castes and Tribes.

Those families have applied for electric connections at their residences. But the Kerala State Electricity Board is asking them to pay huge amount for providing electricity. These poor people are not able to pay the amount.

The Kerala State Elefctricity Board has regretted to supply electricity free of cost to this area. The Forest Department has also objected under the Forest Law to lay electric lines throug the forest.

I urge upon the Government of India to include Rosemala under Rural Electrification Scheme and sanction sufficient amount for the electrification of hilly, remote and backward area Rosemala, in Kulathupuzha Panchayat, Kollam district, Kerala which is under Adoor Parliamentary (reserved) Constituency. I hope that Ministry of Power would take urgent steps in its matter.

**(iv) Need to Impose Ban on Import of Silk in the Country**

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (KOLAR) : India is one of the major silk producing countries in the world. Karnataka produces about eighty per cent of the total quantity of silk produced in our country.

Strengely, the silk producers are not taken due care of either by the Central Government or by the States. The rates of cocoons, yarn etc., go on fluctuating and the producers are at the receiving end. In fact the rates of cocons and yarn are very low. This is due to dumping of China silk in our markets. The import of silk particularly from China has ruined the future of our silk producers. Foreign silk which we are importing is of very low quality. That is why they are selling it here at a very low price. Indigenous silk has no demand in our country. This kind of rate tactics of some countries has affected Indian silk producers in the international market also.

It is the duty of both the Centre and the States to protect the interest of our farmers. The first and the foremost step in this direction would be to stop dumping of foreign silk yarn in our country.

I, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to completely ban import of silk without any further delay.

**(v) Need to Provide Adequate Funds to State Government of Bihar for Industrial Development of Aurangabad District**

*[Translation]*

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (SAGAR) : Aurangabad is a very backward district of Central Bihar. 95 per cent population of the district depend upon farming and labour. There is no industry in the district. Not a single industry is being set up in the Industrial Development Centre of the District as a result of which people of the district are facing starvation and unemployment. Most of the labourers of the district have to work in the industres located in Delhi and other states.

I, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to provide adequate funds to the State Government for setting up of industnes in the Aurangabad Industrial Development Centre.

**(vi) Need to Cater to the Demand of People of Kerala for Loan From the Credit Deposit of NRIs**

*[English]*

SHRI A. SAMPATH (CHIRAYINKIL) : About a million people from Kerala are working abroad and earning foreign exchange to this great nation. The nationalised banks functioning in the State mobilise deposits mainly through NRI accounts and through their relatives' accounts. But the amount mobilised is not properly given for the utilisation in the State. Adequate loans are not provided to the entrepreneurs of the State and hence causes the capital dear and costly. The credit deposit ratio is staggaringly low. The money collected as deposits is being drained out of the State. I, therefore, request the Government to give appropriate directions to the bank authorities to cater to Kerala's demand for loans immediately.

**(vii) Construction of Rail-cum-Road Bridge over Brahamputra and Bogibil area in the Dibrugarh District of Assam**

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (LAKHIMPUR) : It is a long standing demand of the people of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh for construction of a rail-cum-road bridge over Brahmaputra and Bogiubil area in the Dibrugarh district of Assam. This bridge will not only